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COUNTRY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Letzing Heath Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 10 July 1952

REFERENCES

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REMARKS

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1. On 4 June, 1952, the camp in the woods south of Huetten at the Letzing Heath (L 53/Y 52) troop training grounds was heavily occupied.

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the available sheds were not adequate to shelter all motor vehicles and tanks and that, therefore, between 50 and 60 tanks and SP guns and about 100 motor vehicles were parked in the open in the southwestern section of the camp. Twelve SU-100 guns and 6 JSU-122 guns were parked side by side under trees on the eastern edge of Huetten. Numerous officers and RM wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia including some with 50X1-HUM artillery insignia were seen in Huetten. A four-mast radio station still was on the north edge of the camp. Motor vehicles seen in Huetten

2. On 4 June, the approach road to Camp Born was guarded by a double sentry wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. Motor vehicles seen driving to, or from, the camp

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3. On 4 June, there was much traffic on a road through the woods which is about 4 km north of Camp Born and south of the Luebberg and goes eastward.

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4. On 4 June, a column of 18 unnumbered trucks, each occupied by between 15 and 18 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen en route from Neuhaldensleben toward Born. Motor vehicles seen on the Neuhaldensleben-Born road driving northward, or southward

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5. On 4 June, there was but little activity in the billeting area of the barracks installation near the western exit of Hillersleben. Residents stated that all quarters were occupied to capacity, but the units often left in a northerly direction for a period of several days. Three T-34/85 tanks equipped with subcaliber barrels were seen firing at targets in the billeting area. Twenty-five [] trucks were unloaded from a train on the spur track north of the barracks installation. The trucks later entered the installation. Motor vehicles seen driving to, or from, the installation []

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6. On 4 June, there was little activity in the barracks installation at the northeastern exit of Hillersleben. [] the units quartered there, chiefly artillery, had left in northerly direction. Motor vehicle [] seen driving to, or from, the installation []

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7. During the period from 29 May to 6 June, the surrounding of the Panzer Kaserne in Staats (N 53/Y 6) were particularly heavily guarded by sentries. On 2 June, four SU-85 and SU-100 guns, including Nos 65 and 665 passed through Boergitz toward the Kathrinenberg.

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8. During the period from 29 May to 6 June, the camp in the woods south of the Jaevenitz-Urtssprunge railroad line on the north edge of the Letzting Heath troop training grounds was heavily occupied. About 200 tents, each housing between 8 and 12 soldiers and numerous small low temporary buildings, about 6 x 6 meters, were seen. [] a large U-shaped low temporary building was to house a motion picture theater. Between 6 and 8 tents forming a separate group and surrounded by a fence were in the center of the entire installation. Uniformed women were seen in this section of the camp. Numerous motor vehicles were parked in a clearing near the camp. About 10 permanent overhead lines were constructed from the camp to the Jaevenitz post office. Numerous branch lines extended in various directions from the trunk lines which were on double poles in the camp. [] small columns moving from the camp in the woods to a training area about 7 km north of Jaevenitz. A column consisting of eight sedans occupied by officers, a motorcycle messenger and an ambulance were seen on 31 May. A column consisting of 2 trucks, 6 sedans, 4 SU-100 guns and 16 sidecar motorcycles passed through Jaevenitz toward the camp in the woods at 8 a.m. on 3 June. Four SU-100 guns, 4 amphibious cars, 8 trucks towing AT guns, 2 trucks carrying personnel, 1 truck mounting an AA machine gun, 4 armored trucks with rod antennas and about 40 sidecar motorcycles were seen proceeding from the direction of the training area toward the camp on 6 June. Two hours later, a column which consisted of 24 sidecar motorcycles, 2 trucks towing AT guns and 4 armored trucks came from the camp in the woods.

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9. On 5 June, a column including trucks [] all carrying personnel who mostly wore black-bordered crimson epaulets entered the Panzer Kaserne in Staats.

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10. At noon on 20 June, about 10 trucks [] with unarmed personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets were entrained at the Neuhaudensleben railroad station. Thirty-five trucks, [] and 6 boxcarsloads of personnel wearing red-bordered black epaulets were entrained at noon on 1 June.

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11. During the period from 9 to 16 June, firing with machine guns and submachine guns and individual training were noticed in the southern section of the troop training grounds. Motor vehicles [redacted]

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[redacted] were seen entering and leaving the southern section of the troop training grounds and also south of Huetten proceeding toward the camp in the woods.

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12. [redacted] in the Lorn-Huetten-Planken area [redacted] a tank unit from Dessau-Rosslau (L 52/8 17), including Colonel Malay (fnu), Captain Vorsken (fnu) and Senior Lieutenant Sazozetski (fnu) was quartered in the area near Planken.

[redacted] Captain Kashnikov (fnu) with truck [redacted] Lieutenant Zizodkin (fnu) with truck [redacted] and Lieutenant Tarazov (fnu) and Kasmunki (fnu), the latter two with truck [redacted] in the village of Lorn. Trucks

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[redacted] were seen shipping supply in Haliensleben.

13. [redacted] the border of the Letzling Heath troop training grounds south of the camp in the woods south of Huetten was shifted westward and thus was along the Planken-Heuenhof-Hillervsleben road.

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14. At 11:25 a.m. on 30 May, van-like trucks [redacted] loaded on railroad cars and about five escorting personnel were seen at the Wolmirstedt railroad station. [redacted] The Landratsamt in Wolmirstedt which was vacated suddenly [redacted] was to house a Kreis Kommandatura, was still vacant on 2 June.

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Comments.

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- (1) The information contained in the present report indicates that the camp south of Huetten is occupied by units of the 7th Gds Tank Div and Jump Born appears to be occupied by units of the 19th Gds Decz Div and the aforementioned division. Elements of the 136th Hvy Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army and probably tank firing detachments of the 11th Gds Decz Div and the 9th Decz Div may also be in that area. Training still seems to include only individual training and practices at no higher than company level, although a major exercise involving, among others, elements of the aforementioned divisions was held in late May 1952. [redacted] The officers mentioned in paragraph 12 of this report are unknown. They are believed to belong to the aforementioned units.
- (2) Although, according to available information, the occupation of the two barracks installations appears to be unchanged, the information contained in the present report tends to indicate that units of the 15th Gds Decz Div were rotated from their posts to Letzling Heath for practices.
- (3) On 12 June [redacted] the Panzer Kaserne in Staats was occupied by 1,000 soldiers, T-34 tanks and SP guns. It was assumed that the unit belonged to the 16th (.) Gds Tank SP Regt of the 207th Hvy Rifle Div. [redacted] The information in the present report confirms the assumption to some extent. It is, however, also indicative of infantry units of the aforementioned division which probably temporarily moved into the barracks installation during practices at the Letzling Heath troop training grounds.

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- (4) The camp in the woods is most probably the camp south of Hottendorf in early May 1952. The camp was possibly enlarged during the meantime by the construction of small temporary buildings. The units of the Third Shock Army which are believed to be primarily elements of the 207th Iltz Rifle Div. This assumption corresponds with a previous one made in the reference report. The training field, 7 km north of Jaevenitz, apparently belongs to the camp. It was reported for the first time. 50X1-HUM
- (5) [redacted] the train mentioned, which most probably had carried a unit of the 207th Gds AAA Regt of the 7th Gds Tank Div was unloaded in Altengrabow on 5 June 1952. 50X1-HUM
- (6) The trucks belonged to the 10th Gds Tank Div. 50X1-HUM
- (7) The komendaturas which have been repeatedly observed being established near training areas tend to indicate that the surroundings of these training areas are to be more heavily guarded.

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